

Letters

Support for Loop 202 in Ahwatukee alive and well

Dear Editor:

In response to the question posed in a recent letter, the support for the completion of the South Mountain 202 Freeway is alive and well in Ahwatukee! I get a little tired of reading the same arguments over and over from the opposition so I'm waiting for the data and reports to come in.

I about fell out of my chair laughing when I read the comment that the ADOT Growth Distribution Map shows no significant growth for Ahwatukee and Chandler for the next 20 years. We are not the only folks driving on I-10. Where do you think the thousands of new residents in Maricopa, Coolidge, Ocotillo and Casa Grande are going to drive to get into Phoenix?

The projections of growth south of us are staggering. Pinal County population is expected to grow to 2 million in the next 20 years. A large proportion of those residents will drive into Maricopa County for work. If you think the wait on I-10 is bad now, just wait another year or two.

I understand the pollution concerns along freeways, but I also know that there are homes built right next to I-10. Pardon me for being blunt but the last I heard people are not dropping dead along there. Pollution is greatly reduced when traffic is moving! It's when the cars are sitting idle for many hours that particulates rise.

All of you who don't want the freeway in your backyard don't seem to mind driving on I-10 over by Warner and Ray roads spewing out your car exhaust on those neighborhoods. We need to keep the traffic MOVING for them too.

It was suggested in another letter that ADOT look at I-8 or improving SR 85. I, for one, am not going to drive 51 miles south to connect into I-8, which is south of Casa Grande. That would be absolutely ridiculous and take me totally out of the way to get to the west side to places such as the Coyotes or Cardinals arenas, spring training games, concerts, etc. Why would those who live in Ahwatukee, Chandler, Queen Creek, or other Southeast Valley towns want to

go way out of their way when we have a more direct route around South Mountain already on the drawing board?

One main purpose of the South Mountain Freeway is to give an alternate route for commuters that connect with the 202 already built through Chandler. When I-10 is closed due to accidents or backed up with heavy traffic, we need another road out. The traffic backed up on I-10 every morning and evening is not just truckers. Truckers who want to bypass Phoenix can already take the I-8 and SR 85 route if they choose. That has been on the maps for years.

Change is hard. For the most part, people don't like change and they always think of the worst case scenario to defend their positions. This change will be good in the long run and as with the Squaw Peak Parkway (today known as Piastawa Freeway), we will look back on it and wonder how we ever lived without it!

Susi Fathauer